Distr.: GENERAL

E/ECA/CM.16/27
22 January 1990

Original: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Eleventh meeting of the Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole

Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
5-12 May 1990

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fifth session of the Commission/ sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
15-19 May 1990

LC/NAIROBI

RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AT ITS SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF 1989 AND BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS THAT ARE OF INTEREST TO AFRICA

0502

1. The objective of this document is to report to the meeting of the Technical Preparatory of the whole and through it, to the Conference of Ministers on (a) the action taken by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its second regular session held at Geneva in July 1989 on the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Ministers at its fifteenth meeting and addressed to the Council; (b) the decisions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the recommendations of ECOSOC concerning these resolutions; and (c) other resolutions and decisions of the Council and the General Assembly in the economic and social sectors which are of interest to Africa.

2. At its fifteenth meeting, which was also the twenty-fourth session of the Commission and fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Economic Development and Planning, which was held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 10 April 1989, the Conference adopted 22 resolutions, three of which were addressed to the General Assembly through ECOSOC and two directly to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. These were the proclamation of a second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA) [resolution 656 (XXIV)], African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) [resolution 669 (XXIV)], proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1990-1991 [resolution 675 (XXIV)], African Alternative Framework for Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation (AAF-SAP) [resolution 676 (XXIV)], review of the achievements of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres of the Economic Commission for Africa in order to strengthen them [resolution 659 (XXIV)] and measures for strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa's special programmes for least developed, landlocked and island countries in Africa [resolution 667 (XXIV)].

3. The second regular session of 1989 of the Economic and Social Council was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 5 to 28 July 1989.

4. It should be recalled that the last session of the Conference of Ministers had unanimously accepted an invitation by the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to hold its twenty-fifth session of the Commission/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers in Tripoli. Accordingly, the offer was presented to the second session of ECOSOC and was initially discussed during the first day of the informal discussions and later at its thirty-seventh plenary meeting, on 28 July 1989, the Council took note of the offer and decided that the twenty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Africa/sixteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers, in 1990, should be held at Tripoli in accordance with paragraph 5 of section I of General Assembly resolution 40/243.

5. During the first day of the informal consultations, discussions were held on resolutions 656 (XXIV) on the IDDA, 669 (XXIV) on IDEP and 676 (XXIV) on AAF-SAP but no progress was made during those informal discussions as the amendments made on them could not be accepted by the African members of ECOSOC; therefore more discussions were necessary. The Chairman then proposed what is called "informal informals" on each of those resolutions.

6. The "informal informals" began with the resolution on IDDA. After discussions and an exchange of views, a compromise was reached and the resolution was very slightly amended and adopted as resolution 1989/115.

7. As for AAF-SAP, a lot of bargaining and corridor discussions went on before it was brought to the "informal informals". After long discussions a compromise was reached, the resolution was slightly amended and was adopted as resolution 1989/116.

8. The resolution which was really not acceptable to most donor countries was the one on IDEP, especially the operative paragraph which appealed to the General Assembly to approve the incorporation of four core posts for the Institute into the regular budget of the United Nations. Compromise was difficult to obtain as the resolution called for funds from the regular budget. After very long discussions this operative paragraph was dropped and others agreed before a compromise acceptable to all was reached. The Council adopted the resolution when it was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. It was adopted as resolution 1989/117 (annex I contains ECA resolutions as adopted by ECOSOC).

9. As for the resolutions on the MULPOCs and on the least developed land locked and island countries, actions taken on them are dealt with in document E/ECA/CM.15/26; the resolution on the proposed programme of work and priorities for the biennium 1990-1991 is treated in document E/ECA/CM.16/28.

10. The following are some of the other resolutions of interest to Africa adopted by ECOSOC at its regular session of 1989:

(a) Resolution 1989/78: [illegible] the fight against locust and grasshopper infestation particularly in Africa, in which the Council appealed to the international community, especially the developed countries, to make the necessary resources available to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to co-operate with it in further developing remote-sensing techniques, training, the testing and evaluation of pesticides, the collection and dissemination of information, prevention, co-ordination and funding, and in [illegible] of strengthening national and regional early-warning systems in order to improve the ability of affected or vulnerable countries to cope with future threats;

(b) Resolution 1989/[illegible]: Countries stricken by desertification and drought in Africa, in which the Council appealed urgently to the international community, particularly donor countries, while maintaining their support for the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990, to continue to support the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development and the Ministerial Conference for a joint policy to combat desertification;

(c) Resolution 1989/119: Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar, in which the Council, inter alia, invited the countries concerned to co-operate with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe in accelerating the creation of transport networks leading to the Strait of Gibraltar and in harmonizing transport regulations with a view to facilitating the transport of goods and merchandise between the two areas.

11. As is the practice, all resolutions adopted by ECOSOC should also go to the General Assembly for final adoption. Consequently, the aforementioned ECA resolutions, together with other resolutions of interest to Africa which were adopted by ECOSOC, were transmitted to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

12. Among the resolutions adopted by the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly were the ECA resolutions referred to above together with those of interest to Africa also referred to above; other resolutions of interest to Africa adopted by the General Assembly are the following:

13. An important resolution adopted by the General Assembly is 44/21 on Enhancing international peace, security and international co-operation in all its aspects in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. This resolution, introduced by both the United States of America and the Soviet Union, was considered significant since it was the first time the two countries had jointly proposed a resolution of a political nature at the United Nations. By this resolution, adopted without a vote, the General Assembly encourages Member States to consult and co-operate within the framework of the United Nations, the Security Council, the General Assembly and their appropriate subsidiary organs in order to find multifaceted approaches to implement and strengthen the principles and the system of peace, security and international co-operation laid down in the Charter.

14. Together with resolution 44/169: Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade an outline contained in an annex was adopted; this outline is the basis for the elaboration of the strategy. Much work had been accomplished on the third section of the outline and many items such as external debt and population, for instance, previously rejected by developed countries, are now part of the outline. In the resolution, the General Assembly "recommends that the Ad hoc Committee adopt the outline contained in the annex to the present resolution as the basis for the elaboration of the International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade".

15. In its resolution 44/183 on Special assistance to front-line States, the General Assembly strongly urged the international community to continue to provide in a timely and effective manner the financial, material and technical assistance necessary to enhance the individual and collective capacity of the front-line States and other bordering States to withstand the effects of economic measures taken by South Africa, or by the international community against South Africa, in accordance with their national and regional plans and strategies.

16. Another important resolution adopted by the General Assembly during its forty-fourth session was 44/205 entitled Towards a durable solution of external debt problems, which was adopted by a recorded vote of 139 in favour to one against with no abstention. In this resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the contributions of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to the international search aimed at resolving the external debt crisis of developing countries and, in this regard, took note of Trade and Development Board resolutions 165 (S-IX) and 375 (XXXVI) on debt and development problems of developing countries; it stressed that the deterioration in the economic situation of the debtor developing countries constitutes a major obstacle to their economic growth and sustained development, which can be a threat to their economic, social and political stability; welcomed the increasing acceptance by creditor countries of the need for writing off and/or reducing the debt stock and debt-service of developing countries and also welcomed, in this regard, the contributions that the recent initiatives aimed at the reduction of the stock and debt-service of the developing countries could make, expressed deep concern that the overall indebtedness of the debtor developing countries has persisted and often increased, that their growth and development are severely limited, and their economic and social prospects continue to be a cause of a serious concern; stressed the urgent need for the broadest implementation of the recent initiatives; it emphasized that in order to ensure that the recent initiatives, in particular those for debt reduction, in conjunction with appropriate economic policies and favourable international environment, have effective and comprehensive impacts on the reactivation of economic growth and sustained

of financial packages adequate to support growth-oriented adjustment programmes, including, as appropriate, debt reduction, debt service reduction, new lending and other measures, and requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

17. By its resolution 44/206 on possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and through them, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, to take account in their work of the particular situation of islands and coastal areas, particularly low-lying coastal areas, by undertaking further scientific studies and by seeking ways to address the problems of sea-level rise, inter alia, by providing expertise, as requested, in accordance with their specific mandates for improved management of coastal zones.

18. In its resolution 44/212 on International co-operation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries, adopted by consensus, the General Assembly requested the Committee for Development Planning to submit to the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade concrete proposals for action on the eradication of poverty in developing countries. The resolution would invite governments to include the issue of eradication of poverty integrated with relevant environmental issues in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It should be noted that delegations were not able to reach consensus on this resolution last year but succeeded in doing so this year.

19. The General Assembly adopted resolution 44/214 on Specific action related to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries by which it reaffirmed the right of access of land-locked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit States by all means of transport, in accordance with international law and urged the international community, in particular donor countries and multilateral financial and development organizations to provide land-locked and transit developing countries with appropriate financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and transit infrastructure and facilities, including alternative routes.

20. In its resolution 44/220 on the Second United Nations Conference on the least developed countries, the General Assembly emphasized the crucial importance of adequate preparation for the second United Nations Conference on the least developed countries, taking into account the priorities to be put forward by the least developed countries themselves, reiterated its request to all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system concerned to submit, if they have not already done so, reports containing a review of the implementation of the substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the least developed countries within their fields of competence and proposals for further action as input to the preparations for the Conference, and requested the Secretary-General to obtain additional extrabudgetary resources, in line with the past practice, to provide for travel expenses and subsistence allowances for a third representative of each least developed country to the Conference, as noted in his report.

21. The General Assembly adopted resolutions 44/221 on Co-operation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference

and 44/17 on Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity as well as resolutions on special economic assistance to African countries facing particular problems such as those on special economic assistance to Chad in its reconstruction, rehabilitation and development (44/176), on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti (44/177) following the substantial devastation and damage caused in this country by the unprecedented torrential rains and floods in April 1988, on emergency assistance to Somalia (44/178), etc.

22. Another resolution adopted by consensus was on Large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and its impacts on the living marine resources of the World's Oceans and Seas (44/225). By this resolution, the General Assembly would recommend that all interested members of the international community continue to consider and, by no later than 30 June 1991, review the best available scientific data on the impacts of such fishing, and agree upon further co-operative regulation and monitoring measures, as needed.

23. Resolution 44/226 on Traffic in and disposal, control and transboundary movements of toxic and dangerous products and wastes called on the regional commissions to establish an adequate and permanent mechanism to monitor and assess the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and calls upon all countries to co-operate with their respective regional commissions with the aim of preventing the illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes.

24. In resolution 44/227 on the Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 on the Environment, Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and 44/228 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development respectively, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the regional activities which had taken place or are being planned with a view to promoting sustainable and environmentally sound development, inter alia, the first Regional Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Environment Programme at Kampala, Uganda, in June 1989, as well as similar conferences in the other regions planned to take place in 1990. It invited governments and the governing bodies of the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify further their efforts towards promoting and achieving sustainable and environmentally sound development by integrating environmental concerns and considerations into policies and programmes in all areas; the General Assembly also reaffirmed that there is a direct interrelationship between environment and development, and recognized that a supportive international economic environment that would result in sustained economic growth and development, particularly in developing countries, is of major importance for sound management of the environment.

25. The General Assembly adopted resolution 44/229 on International co-operation in the field of the environment by which is stressed the need to provide new and additional financial resources to support developing countries in identifying, analyzing, monitoring, preventing and managing environmental problems primarily at their source, in accordance with their national development goals, objectives and plans, so as to ensure that their development priorities are not adversely affected.

26. In its resolution 44/232 on Trends in the transfer of resources to and from the developing countries and their impact on the economic growth and sustained development of those countries, the General Assembly urged the international community to adopt concrete measures in order to ensure adequate resources for the reactivation of economic growth and sustained development in

developing countries, taking into account a series of recommendations such as the promotion by developed countries of an adequate flow of resources to developing countries and the overcoming of the long-standing external indebtedness of developing countries by reducing significantly the stock of debt and debt-service which could contribute to the attainment of the objective of the resumption of vigorous growth and sustained development in indebted developing countries, etc.

27. In its resolution 41/233 entitled Prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in view of the potentially serious implications of the AIDS pandemic for socio-economic development in some developing countries, to intensify his efforts, in collaboration with the Director-General of the World Health Organization, all other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, and the World Health Organization/United Nations Development Programme Alliance to Combat AIDS, to mobilize the technical and other relevant resources of the United Nations system, through co-ordinated research and programmes, to deal with this aspect of the problem and urged Member States to increase their efforts in combating AIDS and to encourage, support and facilitate national efforts to prevent the further spread of AIDS.

28. Another resolution adopted by consensus was 41/236 on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction which urged, among other actions to be taken by the United Nations system, that the regional commissions play an active role in implementing the activities of the Decade, considering that natural disasters often transcend national boundaries.

29. The draft decision (41/444) on the preparations for the 1990 special session of the General Assembly on international economic co-operation prepared on the basis of informal consultations, received the approval of all delegations.

30. The General Assembly also took note on the progress report of the Secretary-General on preparatory arrangements for the second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

31. The secretariat will, where necessary, take the usual steps where it has not already done so to take into account the provisions of these resolutions in the revisions of the Medium Term Plan and in the elaboration of the biennial work programmes.

Annex I

ECA RESOLUTIONS AS ADOPTED BY THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

1989/115. Proclamation of a second industrial development decade for Africa

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1981/70 of 8 July 1981, in which it recommended that after appropriate evaluation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, the proclamation of a second decade be considered, in order to accelerate further the industrialization of Africa,

Noting resolution CM/Res.1187 (XLIX) of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity [1] in which it urged the Industrial Development Board of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to adopt an appropriate decision with a view to the proclamation of a second decade by the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session,

Noting also Industrial Development Board decision IDB.5/Dec.7 of 6 July 1989, [2] in which the Board recommended that the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization request the General Assembly to proclaim, at its forty-fourth session, a second industrial development decade for Africa,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/84 of 24 May 1989 on guidelines for international decades in economic and social fields,

Noting that an independent evaluation of the implementation of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa has been completed by a team of experts, [3]

Taking note of resolution 656 (XXIV) of 7 April 1989 of the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, [4]

Noting that the Conference of Ministers invited the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its ninth meeting to examine the report on the evaluation of the implementation of the Decade and present its views on the modalities of launching a second decade for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session through the Economic and Social Council and the Industrial Development Board,

---

[1] A/44/291, annex.

[2] E/1989/L.32, annex.

[3] CAMI.9/20/Add.1.

[4] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 16 (E/1989/35), chap. IV.

Having heard the statement made by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa on 10 July 1989, [7]

1. Recommends that the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session consider proclaiming the period 1991-2000 the second industrial development decade for Africa;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session proposals, with cost estimates, for the preparation of the programme for the second industrial development decade for Africa, taking into account resolution 2 (IX) of 31 May 1989 of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry. [8]

37th plenary meeting,
28 July 1989.

1989/114 African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation

The Economic and Social Council

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/21 of 12 November 1988, in particular paragraph 55 (c) of the annex, in which the Assembly recommended that African countries increase their efforts in the search for a viable conceptual and practical framework for economic structural adjustment programmes in keeping with long-term development objectives and strategies at the national, subregional and regional levels,

Convinced of the urgent need for African economies to bring about structural transformation and sustained growth and development,

1. Takes note with interest of the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation, [9] adopted by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa in resolution 675 (XXIV) of 7 April 1989 [8] and the joint statement on Africa's long-term development adopted by the meeting of agencies concerned with Africa's economic and social progress held at Washington, D.C., on 10 May 1989;

2. Requests the General Assembly to consider taking action on the Framework, as appropriate;

---

[7] See E/1989/SR.33.

[8] CM/1479/Rev.1.

[9] A/44/315, annex.

[8] See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 16 (E/1989/35), chap. IV.

3. Calls upon the international community, especially developed countries and multilateral institutions, to consider requests to provide support to the country programmes prepared by African countries.

37th plenary meeting,
28 July 1989.

1989/117. African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1985/62 of 26 July 1985,

Noting with satisfaction the achievements of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the services it has rendered to African Governments and the increasing and continued interest of member States in its activities,

Considering the critical financial crisis facing the Institute, the decline in the contributions of member States and the decision of the United Nations Development Programme to withdraw its assistance for training at the Institute and funding of its core staff at the end of 1989,

Noting with satisfaction that the Governing Council of the Institute has appointed a sub-committee to review the structure and management of the Institute and make recommendations on its restructuring,

Expressing appreciation for the support that the United Nations Development Programme has so far given the Institute,

1. Urges the Governing Council of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to expedite the work of restructuring and rationalizing the activities and means of the Institute in order to establish, as early as possible, a renewed and financially viable Institute for the benefit of African development;

2. Invites the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to reconsider, in the light of the progress made in the restructuring process, the decision to cease the funding of the Institute after December 1989 and to provide support as appropriate;

3. Earnestly urges African Governments to pay their contributions in a regular and timely manner and make plans to pay gradually their accumulated arrears.

37th plenary meeting,
28 July 1989.

Annex II

DECISION TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON AFRICAN ALTERNATIVE FRAMEWORK TO STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMMES FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND TRANSFORMATION (AAF SAP)

The General Assembly,

Decides that the activities in support of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 [9] should be continued pending the final review and appraisal of the Programme of Action to be undertaken by the Assembly at its forty-sixth session in accordance with its resolution 43/27 of 18 November 1988.

---

9 Resolution S/13-2, annex.